

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2842
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1105

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINT, FT, ET
SUBJ: UNI TO BOYCOTT PARIS CONFERENCE

REF: MOGADISCIO 270

1. FEB 23 ETHIOPIAN HERALD CARRIED DETAILED STATEMENT BY AHMED YOUSEF, "NEW" PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL UNION FOR INDEPENDENCE (UNI) STATING PARIS ROUNDTABLE CONSTITUTED BETRAYAL OF ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE OF TFAI TO ACHIEVE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE. HE STATED PURPOSE OF ROUNDTABLE WAS TO SABOTAGE OAU ACCRA ROUNDTABLE AND PARIS MEETING "STAB IN BACK" OF UN AND OAU PLANS TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON NEUTRAL GROUNDS TO AGREE ON COMMON POLITICAL PLATFORM BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.

2. YOUSEF ACCUSED GOF OF PREEMPTING SERIOUS OAU EFFORTS TO HELP PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI TO ACHIEVE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT EXTERNAL PRESSURES OF INTERNAL DISSENT. NOTING PARTICIPANTS AT PARIS ROUNDTABLE WILL BE SUBJECT TO FRENCH PRESSURES
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AND MANIPULATION, HE STATED UNI WOULD BOYCOTT CONFERENCE AND CALLED ON ALL OTHER PARTIES AND LIBERATION FRONTS TO DO LIKEWISE.

3. YOUSEF CALLED ON OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN LOME TO DENOUNCE PARIS ROUNDTABLE ORGANIZED IN VIOLATION OF UN AND OAU RESOLUTIONS. HE NOTED GOF WAS RESORTING TO UNPRE-

CEDENTED PRACTICE OBY FAVORING ONE POLITICAL PARTY (READ LPAI) IN ORDER CREATE DIVISION AND TURMOIL AND PAVE WAY FOR SOMALI ANNEXATION OF TFAI. HE URGED OAU CONTINUE PLANS FOR ACCRA ROUNDTABLE, NOTING UNI HAD SENT REP TO LOME TO EXPRESS UNI'S VIEWS. ARTICLE CLOSED WITH YOUSEF EXPRESSING VIEW THAT SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI HAD DETERIORATED IN PAST EIGHT MONTHS, WITH "WAVE OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE UNLEASHED BY INSTRUMENTS OF SOMALIA." HE DESCRIBED PRESENT SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI AS "EXPLOSIVE."

4. COMMENT: AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, YOUSEF ONE OF TWO EXISTING PRESIDENTS OF UNI. HE REPRESENTS ETHIOPIAN-BACKED FACTION, AND HIS VIEWS REFLECT, IF NOT OPENLY REPRESENT, THOSE OF EPMG. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT OTHER ETHIOPIAN-BACKED GROUPS, NAMELY THE POPULAR LIBERATION MOVMENT (MPL) AND MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF DJIBOUTI (MLD), TO "RESPOND" TO CALL NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN PARIS ROUNDTABLE. ANY AGREEMENT REACHED IN PARIS BETWEEN GOF AND POPULAR AFRICAN LEAGUE FOR INDEPENDENCE (LPAI) FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF THE SOMALI COAST (FLCS) AND PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY WILL PROBABLY BE SOUNDLY DENOUNCED BY EPMG-BACKED ORGANIZATIONS AS SELLOUT OF TRUE INTEREST DJIBOUTI PEOPLE. SIMILARLY, ANY POSITIVE DECISIONS MADE AT PARIS ROUNDTABLE WILL BE SEEN BY EPMG AS FURHTER PROOF OF FRANCO-SOMALI COLLUSION. IN VIEW THIS FACT, PLUS YOUSEF'S DESCRIPTION OF PRESENT SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI AS "EXPLOSIVE", LIKELIHOOD OF INCREASED EPMG-BACKED TURMOIL IN DJIBOUTI, PARTICULARLY VIOLENCE, DIRECTED TOWARDS FRENCH, SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT.

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